Claims

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- 1. Isolated and purified DNA fragment, which is the gene cluster for the anthracycline biosynthetic pathway of the bacterium *Streptomyces nogalater*, being included in a 10kb and a 7kb flanked *Bgl*II fragments of *S. nogalater* genome.
- 2. The DNA fragment according to claim 1, comprising the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, or a sequence showing at least 80% homology to said sequence.
- 3. A recombinant DNA, which comprises the DNA fragment according to claim 1 or 2, cloned in a plasmid replicating in *Streptomyces*.
- 4. The recombinant DNA according to claim 3, which is the plasmid pSY15c, comprising a 1.4 kb *BamHI-SacI* fragment from the plasmid pSY42 and a 1.1 kb *MluI-KpnI* fragment from the plasmid pSY43.
- 5. Plasmid pSY42, deposited in S. lividans strain TK24/pSY42 with the deposition number DSM 12451.
- 6. Plasmid pSY43, deposited in S. lividans strain TK24/pSY43 with the deposition number DSM 12452.
 - 7. A process for the production of hybrid compounds, comprising transferring the DNA fragment according to claim 1 or 2 into a *Streptomyces* host, cultivating the recombinant strain obtained, and isolating the compounds produced.
 - 8. The process according to claim 7, wherein the Streptomyces host is a Streptomyces galilaeus host.
- 9. The process according to claim 8, wherein the Streptomyces galilaeus host is selected from the strains H026, H039, H063 and H075, which are mutant strains of S. galilaeus ATCC 31615.

10. The process according to claim 8, wherein an anthracycline is produced, which has the following formula I

11. The process according to claim 8, wherein an anthracyclinone is produced, which
15 has the following formula II

12. A process for the production of hybrid compounds, comprising transferring at least one of the genes selected from the group consisting of snogJ, snogA, snoaM, snogN, snoaG, snogC, snogK, snoaL, snoK, snogD, snoW, snogE, snoL, snoO and snoaF into a Streptomyces host, said genes being derived from the DNA fragment of claim 1 or 2,

cultivating the recombinant strain obtained, and isolating the compounds produced.

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- 13. The process according to claim 12, wherein the gene *sno*aL encoding NAME cyclase is transferred into a *Streptomyces* host.
- 14. The process according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the genes snogD and snogE encoding glycosyl transferases is transferred into a Streptomyces host.
 - 15. The process according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the genes snogI, snogN, snogC, snogK and snogA affecting the formation of nogalamine and nogalose is transferred into a Streptomyces host.